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26 November 1992

FIRST RECORD OF CHIRPING *CISTICOLA CISTICOLA PAPIENS* FROM
 BURUNDI

On 29 September 1992 we found three pairs of Chirping Cisticolas *Cisticola pipiens* in a marshy area about 200 m south of the golf course in Bujumbura, Burundi. This species, only recently added to the East African list (Moyer & Sikombe 1992, *Scopus* 16: 55-56), was recognized by its distinctive song (Fig. 1). The birds were in a mosaic of reeds, cat-tails, rank grass, and maize and sweet-potato cultivation. They were relatively tame, singing from exposed positions on reeds and grass, and allowing approach to within 15 m. Excellent views were obtained through 10 × binoculars. Further visits were made to this site on 1 and 3 October; the song was recorded, and one individual was mist-netted and photographed. Two other cisticola species heard at this site were Red-faced Cisticola *C. erythropis* and Winding Cisticola *C. galactotes*. The Chirping Cisticolas had buffy brown backs broadly streaked with

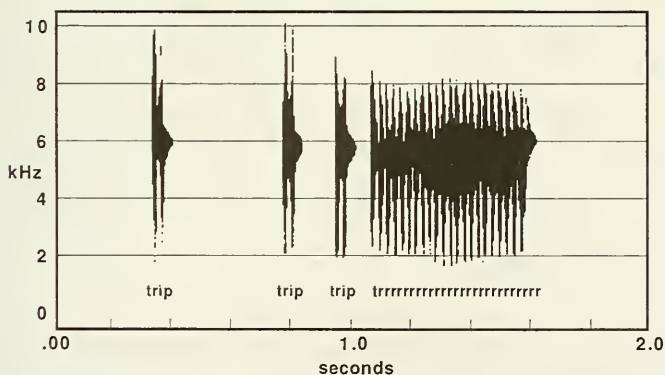


Figure 1. Sonagram of the song of Chirping Cisticola *Cisticola pipiens* recorded in Bujumbura, Burundi.

black, thereby distinguishing them from the plain-backed Red-faced Cisticolas and from Winding Cisticola, which has a greyish back with black streaks. Other characters noted which distinguish Chirping Cisticola from Winding Cisticola in the field were the darker lores, larger size, and longer and 'floppier' tail of Chirping Cisticola. The netted individual had a wing of 71 mm (almost certainly a male). All three species are most easily identified in the field by their songs.

Chirping Cisticolas were observed at two nearby sites within Bujumbura. DCM noted a pair of Chirping Cisticolas singing in rank grass on the shore of Lake Tanganyika at the Bujumbura yacht club on 3 October. TSS and Nedra Klein found several pairs in reeds and tall grass at a marshy area on the northern edge of the golf course in Bujumbura on 1 and 3 October. We also found Chirping Cisticolas in the Rusizi River Delta National Park west of Bujumbura. It was common in the extensive reed beds fringing the shore of Lake Tanganyika during visits by DCM on 2 October and by TSS on 3 and 6 October. TSS obtained additional tape-recordings of this species, which will be deposited at the Library of Natural Sounds, Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology. Red-faced and Winding Cisticolas were also seen at Rusizi, and a small cloud-scraper, probably Wing-snapping Cisticola *C. ayresii* or Pectoral-patch Cisticola *C. brunnescens*, was seen on the short-grass plain fringing the reed beds.

These are the first records of Chirping Cisticola from Burundi and represent a northward range extension of about 800 km from the Ufipa Plateau in Tanzania (Moyer & Sikombe 1992, *loc. cit.*) and about 550 km from the nearest record in the Marungu Highlands on the Zaire side of the lake (Chapin 1953, *Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.* 75A; Dowsett & Prigogine 1974, *Cercle Hydrobiologique de Bruxelles* 19: 1-67). Considering that this species has been overlooked by birders within the city limits of Bujumbura and in the well known Rusizi Delta National Park, it probably occurs in appropriate habitat all around the shores of Lake Tanganyika and adjacent highland areas in Zaire and Tanzania.

We thank Bob and Laura Payne for making the recording of Chirping Cisticola from which the sonagram was produced. Liz and Neil Baker provided transport to the Rusizi Delta National Park and photographed the captured bird, and Jacob Kiure assisted with mist-netting. G. Maclean confirmed our identification of this species based on the song, and J. V. Remsen commented on the manuscript. These observations were made while we were attending the Eighth Pan-African Ornithological Congress; Schulenberg is grateful to the Ridgeway Bird and Wildlife Endowment, Department of Ecology and Evolution, University of Chicago, and the Field Museum of Natural History, for providing funding.

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18 January 1993